

APPLICANT(S): GINZBURG, Boris
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1 - 29 are pending in the application. Claims 18 - 23 and 27-29 have been allowed. Claims 6 - 12 and 15 have been objected to. Claims 1 - 5, 13 - 14, 16 - 17 and 24 - 26 have been rejected. Claims 2, 6 and 16 have been amended.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 14 and 24 - 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes that claims 18 - 23 and 27 - 29 are allowed. Further, claims 6 - 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1, 4 and 5. Accordingly, claims 6 - 12 are allowable and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 13), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 has been rewritten in

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independent form including all of the limitations of claim 13 and 14. Accordingly, claim 15 is allowable and allowance of this claim is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4 - 5, 13 - 14 and 24 - 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Fischer (US Patent Number 5,371,734).

Claims 1, 4 - 5, 13 - 14 and 24 - 25 were cancelled and therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2 - 3, 16 - 17 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Fischer (US Patent Number 5,371,734).

Claim 26 has been cancelled and accordingly the rejection of this claim is now moot.

Claim 2 has been amended to be dependent from allowable claim 6. Accordingly, the patentability of claims 2 and 3 follows directly from the patentability of claim 6. Therefore, applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2 and 3 are likewise allowable and requests that the rejection of claims 2 and 3 be withdrawn.

Claim 16 has been amended to be dependent from allowable claim 15. Accordingly, the patentability of claims 16 and 17 follows directly from the patentability of claim 15. Therefore, applicant respectfully asserts that claims 16 and 17 are likewise allowable and requests that the rejection of claims 16 and 17 be withdrawn.

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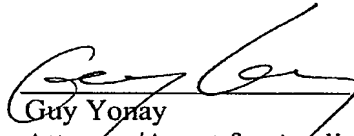
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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